Victoria Shanghai Academy

Marking Scheme for IB Diploma Music

Summative Assessment Exam – November 2011

Question 1 *(Unidentified piece)* M

**Musical Features**

* Polyphonic Voices
* 6 –part harmony
* Canonic imitation in the melodic line
* Unaccompanied (acapella) singing
* Latin Text – Sacred music
* Parts overlap to create contrapuntal writing
* Major key
* Closes on an imperfect Cadence

**Structural Features**

* Through composed music which has a different melodic motif for each line

**Contextual Features**

This piece is from the Renaissance Period (1500 – 1650). This was a time that vocal music was still very popular. This period was responsible for many vocal polyphonic pieces. Much of the music was written in modes although this piece seems to be very diatonic and doesn’t belong to any of the modes invented by the monks. Modes were a musical scale (a set of 8 notes which was defined and named by its starting note) One famous composer was Joaquin Des Pres.

This piece was most likely part of a Mass for a service in the church.

Question2 – *(Unidentified piece)* Alex’s Dixieland Band

**Musical Features**

* Instruments: Trumpet, Trombone, Banjo, Drums, Baritone Saxophone
* Homophonic in texture – Solo instrument playing melody with rhythm section
* Major tonality
* Has Rhythm Section and Solo (melody-playing instruments) section
* Melody is syncopated
* Trombone slides
* Time is 4/4 – march-like rhythm
* Harmonies are very simple and diatonic
* Strong first beat
* Melodies are improvised in the trumpet and trombone solos

**Structural Features**

A – Trumpet and Trombone duet with rhythm section

B - Modulated to another key

C – Bridge – modulates to dominant key

A – Returns to the tonic

B – Trumpet Solo – rhythm section continues to reinforce harmonies and strong beat

B – Trombone Solo

**Contextual Features**

This piece belongs to the Dixieland period of Music in the US. This period was approximately around the 1920’s around the time of the great depression. It followed the ragtime period and was a direct result of small ensembles playing light-hearted music during a very difficult time in the US.

Question 3 – *(Unidentified piece)* Plainsong

**Musical Features**

Monophonic Texture – A single melody

Male voices

Unaccompanied (accapella)

Melissmatic singing – One syllable sung on many notes

Song sung by monks

Mode – (Dorian) D – E – F – G – A – B – C - D

Latin Text – Text for church services and music

Sacred Music

Unmeasured, free time

**Structural Features**

Very free time but most of the phrases end on the tonic.

**Contextual Features**

This piece belongs in the Medieval Period where most of the music was written for and by the monks. The most important monk was St Gregory who was responsible for writing 1,000’s of church music pieces and collections were so numerous that his name became a ‘trademark’ for this period – many of the songs written in this period were so called ‘Gregorian Chant’

Question 4 – *(Unidentified piece)* Smooth Jazz

**Musical Features**

* Instruments: Synthesizer, Electronic keyboard, Electronic drum loop, Bass,

Electric guitar

* Rhythm section plays chords
* ‘Jazzy’ chord progressions
* Harmonic Riff
* Melodic repetitive phrases – played by saxophone
* Simple 4/4 time
* Unusual harmonies
* Polyphonic writing – mostly call and response in melody
* Dynamics are soft and easy-listening to create ‘smooth’ sound

**Structural Features**

Intro

A – Saxophone introduces a theme repeated 4 times (ascending)

Rhythm section plays syncopated chordal riff. Piano plays answering phrases

B – New theme long sustained notes descending played by Saxophone

Rhythm section continues piano plays sustained chords ascending

C- New Themes – conversation between the saxophone and piano

A - Repeat - improvised slightly in answering phrases

B - Repeat –improvised slightly in answering phrases

Fade

**Contextual Features**

This piece belongs to the smooth jazz period which is 1940’s. It was a direct result and response to the brass, loud and sometimes over-bearing music of the be-bop Jazz music.

Question 5 *(unidentified piece)* BB King ‘Crying wont help you!’

**Musical Features**

* Guitar improvised solo
* Solo Male singer
* Rhythm section – Rhythm guitar, bass, drum kit. Sustained organ chords, piano
* Bass playing the 12 Bar Blues arpeggios
* Gospel choir
* Blues scale – blues notes to give this piece a ‘blues feel’
* Lyrics – ‘Crying wont help you’
* Tempo slow – to add to the feeling of suffering
* 4/4 time
* Has syncopated notes in the melody and syncopated chords in the accompaniment
* Homophonic texture
* Simple harmonic progressions (using chords I, IV and V) – Tonic, Subdominant and Dominant

**Structural Features**

Instrumental Introduction

Lead and Rhythm Guitar plus rhythm section – drum, bass – 12 bar blues

Vocals enter – Verse 1 -12 Bar Blues

Verse 2 Repeat

Instrumental Bridge – Guitar improvised solo

Vocals Verse 3

Instrumental Bridge – Guitar improvised solo

Vocals Verse 4

Instrumental Bridge – Guitar improvised solo

Repeat

Fade

**Contextual Features**

This piece is from the ‘Blues’ period of Jazz music in the US. This period was around 1900 when slavery was still prevalent in the Southern parts of the US. Many of the songs were about hardship in life. The use of blues scale and the 12 bar blues chord progressions clearly reinforces this piece to be of this period.

Question 6 *(unidentified piece)* What is this?’ by Eero Koivistoinen

**Musical Features**

* Instruments: trumpets, flugelhorns, trombones, piano, drums, percussion
* Jazz harmonies mixed with atonal language
* Use of muted instruments
* Alternation of sections with predictable meters with sections where the meter is less obvious

**Structural Features**

* Piano improvisations with drum kit (fast 4/4 time)
* Juxtaposition of contrasting styles. ON the one hand the piano in a fast 3/4/ presents a harmonically and melodically traditional theme. Brass presenting the atonal ostinato
* New section initiated by a motive played by brass instruments playing staggered sustained notes adding to each other and ending in a cluster
* Brass instruments play the theme presented earlier by the piano
* Section consisting or motivic fragments of the theme. At the same time the brass instruments play effects such as glissando, bending notes, chromaticsm
* Stable time signature of 4/4 . Horn has free improvisation (in high register) supported by drum set

**Structural Features**

* This is a fusion of be bop and modern 20th century jazz music. The big band also explores contemporary language of modern music and free jazz periods
* There is a juxtapositioning of styles